

## Legislature, Governor Advance Cluster Initiatives

During the 2001 legislative session, Connecticut's elected officials once again showed uncommon vision and leadership by enacting groundbreaking legislation aimed at enhancing Connecticut's economic competitiveness.

Acting on recommendations put forth by the Governor's Council on Economic Competitiveness and Technology, the General Assembly and Governor Rowland enacted laws and provided funding critical to expanding Connecticut's industry clusters and positioning the state to excel in the New Economy. This support will enable Connecticut to:

### ◆ Further strengthen Connecticut's position as a global center of bioscience

Cluster leadership advocates support of bioscience as an industry sector with tremendous potential to keep Connecticut at the forefront of the global economy.

- Add \$20 million over the next two years to the **BioScience Facilities Fund**, bringing the total commitment to \$60 million. The fund, managed by Connecticut Innovations, promotes expansion of the biotechnology sector by financing the laboratory space essential to its growth.
- Create a **BioScience Office** within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). Working in partnership with the BioScience Cluster/CURE, the office will be dedicated exclusively to supporting and expanding the bioscience industry in Connecticut.
- Establish a **BioScience Ambassador** position for a senior industry leader to work part-time to represent Connecticut and serve as an advisor to the DECD commissioner.

### ◆ Spotlight Connecticut as a world leader in key New Economy industries

Governor's Council members advocate proactive steps to enhance the state's image as a vibrant location for knowledge industries.

- Significant funding is provided to launch a high-impact marketing campaign to command attention for Connecticut as a bioscience and IT/e-business "hot spot."

### ◆ Create a world-class transportation infrastructure

Public and private-sector leaders agree that transportation is key to improving Connecticut's competitive position in the global marketplace.

- Establish a 15-member **Connecticut Transportation Strategy Board** and set aside \$50 million for priority

transportation projects. Public and private leaders will work to establish investment priorities and to create the efficient, intermodal transportation infrastructure the state needs for continued economic growth.

- Establish a seven-member **board of directors for Bradley International Airport**. Composed of private-sector and public leaders, in partnership with the Department of Transportation, the board will: establish strategic goals; approve the Master Plan and operating budgets; work closely with the Community Advisory Board; and identify economic development opportunities that fully leverage Bradley's potential as an engine for economic growth.

### ◆ Accelerate the development of Connecticut's IT workforce of the future

In the knowledge-driven economy, a strong IT workforce is essential to success. Connecticut's initiatives to achieve this goal are a model for every other state.

- Develop the "**Digital Compact**," a statewide organization of IT companies and policy organizations to oversee implementation of IT initiatives.
- Establish a "**Digital Strategic Fund**" to support state initiatives in IT.
- Develop strategies to address the "**digital divide**" to make certain all segments of Connecticut's population benefit from the expanded opportunities of the New Economy.
- Establish **pilot programs** for internships, co-ops and the development of skills standards and IT assessment exams.

### ◆ Further cultivate Connecticut's burgeoning film industry

The entertainment and media industries offer significant economic benefit to the state and have tremendous potential for growth.

- Provide funding for DECD's **Connecticut Film, Video and Media Office**. The office will receive \$400,000 this fiscal year and similar support in future years to continue to attract filmmakers and production companies to Connecticut.

CLUSTER  
ACTIVATION

TRANSPORTATION

WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT

MARKETING

LEGISLATION

# Youth BizPlan Competition - Developing the Urban Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow



## INNER CITY BUSINESS STRATEGY

**B**usiness and community leaders who participated in Connecticut's Inner City Business Strategy Initiative reported that one of the best ways to create economic opportunity in inner cities is to foster entrepreneurship among residents. To that end, DECD and the State Department of Education are working in partnership with the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). By using NFTE's nationally recognized curriculum on how to start and run their own businesses, inner-city high school students learn how to make money and are motivated to further their education. More than 250 students have been trained in the first year of the program.

The first semester of the program culminated in a Youth BizPlan Competition. Held on June 11 at New

Haven's Science Park, the competition gave nine students from four schools the chance to showcase business concepts they developed while participating in the NFTE program. A panel of judges selected three winners:

- Joy Petaway, High School in the Community, New Haven, first place — \$750
- Sonia Kuznetsov, Academy of Information and Technology, Stamford, second place — \$500
- Geraldo Santana, High School in the Community, New Haven, third place — \$250

Each of the six other students received a cash award of \$100 for having qualified for the state competition.

## Pfizer Opens Worldwide Headquarters for Global Research and Development in New London



## CLUSTER ACTIVATION

**U**nderscoring the state's global leadership in the bioscience industries, Pfizer Inc. this month opened a 750,000-square-foot facility in New London, Connecticut. The new facility will be the headquarters for Pfizer's Global Research and Development division, the world's largest private biomedical research enterprise for disease cures. This \$294 million, state-of-the-art facility has transformed a 22-acre brownfield site into a multi-dimensional

campus at which approximately 2,100 additional highly skilled professionals will be employed.

The Pfizer project, the largest in-state business expansion in Connecticut history, reflects the commitment by Connecticut's public and private leaders to foster job creation and economic prosperity in the state by expanding its key industries.

## Connecticut Impresses at BIO 2001



## CLUSTER ACTIVATION

**C**ommitted to calling the world's attention to the strength of its key industries, Connecticut recently mounted its largest out-of-state presence ever at the BIO 2001 show. Held June 25-27 in San Diego, the BIO show is the largest gathering of pharmaceutical, biotechnology and supplier companies in the world.

Connecticut's 24-booth pavilion outshone those of several other states and even countries. It housed 22 exhibitors, including Connecticut pharmaceutical and

biotechnology companies, real estate developers and professional services firms. Other exhibitors included Connecticut Innovations; CURE, Connecticut's BioScience Cluster; the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC); Northeast Utilities; and several municipalities. Approximately 14,000 people attended the event, and attendees were impressed with Connecticut's exhibit and the size and scope of the state's bioscience industries.



## MARKETING